

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Issue: September 2008

MEPAG Meeting #19: September 18, 2008 in Monrovia, California

MEPAG Meeting #20: Early 2009 on the East Coast

Mars Science News

Please note the two major upcoming Mars meetings this month:

The MSL Landing Site Workshop, September 15-17 and the MEPAG (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group) Meeting on September 18th. Both meetings will be at the DoubleTree hotel in Monrovia, CA. Note that September 3rd is the last day to make reservations at the MEPAG rate.

The MEPAG meeting will be broadcast via WebEx. WebEx directions will be sent in a separate email a week before the meeting.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
9/01	Fall AGU abstracts due
9/01	Indication of interest – GIS for Planetary Mappers (Oct. 1-2)
9/19	Abstracts – 11th Mars Crater Consortium (Sept. 29-30)
9/17	Abstracts – Second Workshop on Mars Valley Networks

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Third Quarter, 2008</i>		
	September 1-3, 2008 Neuchatel, SWITZERLAND	8th European Workshop on Astrobiology EANA '08 European Astrobiology Network Association, ESA, Space Exploration Institute. Held at Space Exploration Institute. http://www.space-x.eu/EANA08/
	September 15-17, 2008 Houston, Texas	Workshop on the Early Solar System Impact Bombardment Lunar and Planetary Institute One of the legacies of the Apollo program is the concept of late heavy bombardment or a lunar cataclysm that may have resurfaced the Moon and thermally metamorphosed its crust. Several recent studies have continued to test that concept and explore the implications any bombardment may have for our understanding of lunar evolution and early evolution of life on Earth. Final announcement and workshop program will be posted by August 6, 2008. http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/bombardment2008/
	September 15-17, 2008 Monrovia, California	MSL (Mars Science Laboratory) 3rd Landing Site Workshop Doubletree Hotel, Monrovia. The process of selecting the MSL landing site continued at the second workshop held in October 2007 when the number of sites remaining under discussion was narrowed to six. The goal of the third workshop will be to produce a summary of the characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses of each of these six sites. A future workshop is planned that would further narrow the list of sites under consideration to a recommended landing site. Information on the MSL landing site selection process and sites discussed at the first two workshops along with supporting image data can be found at the websites supporting MSL landing site section activities: http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/ http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/msl All members of the Mars scientific community are encouraged to participate. Contact Matt Golombek golombek@jpl.nasa.gov
	September 18, 2008 Monrovia, California	MEPAG (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group) Meeting #19 Contact Jack Mustard, john_mustard@brown.edu
	September 21-26, 2008 Münster, GERMANY	European Planetary Science Congress (EPSC) University Münster. http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc2008/ Contact Harald Hiesinger: hiesinger@uni-muenster.de
	September 25-28, 2008 Grants, New Mexico	Caves of Mars Field Meeting: Lavatubes and their extraterrestrial analog value for Mars, and possibly other bodies Sponsored by the Association of Mars Explorers, a non-formal group who have either had a mission on Mars, or who have worked extensively in analog environments. September 25-26: Field meeting on site, El Malpais National Monument, Grants, NM. September 27-28: Chaco Canyon field trip Contact: Penny Boston, pboston@nmt.edu Caves of Mars Project: http://www.highmars.org/niac/

	September 29-30, 2008 Flagstaff, Arizona	11th Mars Crater Consortium Meeting US Geological Survey Deadline for abstracts: September 19, 2008 Contact Nadine Barlow, Nadine.Barlow@nau.edu http://www.marscraterconsortium.nau.edu/
	September 30 – October 2, 2008 Moffett Field, California	Mars Climate Modeling Center Workshop NASA Ames Research Center Contact Jeffery Hollingsworth, jeffery.l.hollingsworth@nasa.gov http://mcmcworkshop.arc.nasa.gov/
	September 29– October 3, 2008 Glasgow, SCOTLAND	59th International Astronautical Congress This event includes a Space Exploration Symposium the whole week, with sessions on astronomy, the Moon, Mars, advanced concepts, and solar system exploration) http://www.iafastro.com/
	October 1-2, 2008 Flagstaff, Arizona	GIS for Planetary Mappers Hands-on training workshop held at USGS. Seating limited to 24 people. Helpful if participants could bring a laptop computer running Windows, but it is not required. Users with OSX or Linux laptops can also be accommodated. Grad students and post-docs are encouraged to attend. A DVD containing presentation materials and software tools will be provided. Deadline for indication of interest: September 1, 2008 Contact: Trent Hare, thare@usgs.gov http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/pigwad/docs/ Submitted by Nadine Barlow, Northern Arizona University
	October 5–9, 2008 Houston, Texas	Geological Society of America national meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	October 10–15, 2008 Ithaca, New York	40th Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/~dps/meetings.html
	October 19-24, 2008 Moab, Utah	Second Workshop on Mars Valley Networks Sponsors: The Smithsonian Institution and University of Virginia Valley networks represent the best evidence that water once flowed across the surface of ancient Mars. This workshop will provide a forum for discussing the extraction of watershed information from digital elevation models of the martian surface, age-dating valley network systems, and other quantitative measurements of valley networks. A field trip to look at sapping features in the Colorado Plateau is also planned. http://www.nasm.si.edu/marsvalleynetworks/
	October 20-22, 2008 Moscow, Russia	48th Vernadsky-Brown Microsymposium The Microsymposium will have a scientifically broad scope covering different areas of planetary science and related issues. Deadline for abstract submission is September 15, 2008 Contact Persons: Alexander Basilevsky and Evgeny Slyuta, atbas@geokhi.ru and slyuta@geokhi.ru http://www.planetology.ru/
	October 21-23, 2008 Paris, FRANCE	Workshop on Martian Phyllosilicates: Recorders of Aqueous Processes? Objectives: understanding the Martian surface environment in phyllosilicate-bearing localities. This includes identifying where and what kinds of phyllosilicates have been identified, how these relate to our knowledge from terrestrial sites and experimental results, and what we can expect to achieve with upcoming missions. Implications for habitability (e.g., what can MSL and ExoMars tell us?) Contact: Jean-Pierre Bibring, bibring@ias.fr http://www.ias.u-psud.fr/Mars_Phyllosilicates

	October 28–31, 2008 Florida	10th ILEWG International Conference on Exploration and Utilization of the Moon (ICEUM10/ILC2008) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/leagilewg2008/
	October 28-31, 2008 Cape Canaveral, Florida	Joint Annual Meeting of LEAG-ICEUM-SRR Meeting is planned to coincide with the October 28, 2008 launch of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO – including LCROSS) from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. To be added to the mailing list to receive electronic reminders or special announcements via e-mail, please submit the electronic Indication of Contact: Elizabeth Wagganer, LPI (281) 486-2164 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/leagilewg2008
	October 28-31, 2008 Pasadena, CA	SPICE training class Reservations Due by September 19 An announcement and registration form are available at: http://naif.jpl.nasa.gov/naif/announcement_SPICE-08.html
	October 30, 2008 Tempe, AZ	Exploring Mars With JMARS: A Data User's Workshop Workshop Convener: Philip Christensen, Arizona State University To register for the workshop, send the following information to Phil Christensen at phil.christensen@asu.edu Full name: Institution: Mail address: Phone number: e-mail address:
	November 10–13, 2008 Williamsburg, Virginia	3rd International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modeling and Observations Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Conference Center Sponsor: The Lunar and Planetary Institute Contacts: Joel S. Levine joel.s.levine@nasa.gov and Francois Forget Francois.Forget@lmd.jussieu.fr http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/modeling2008/
	November 2008	End of MRO Primary Science Phase; transition to Relay Phase
	November 18, 2008	Start of Mars solar conjunction
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2008</i>		
	December 15–19, 2008 San Francisco, CA	Fall meeting, AGU www.agu.org/meetings
	December 24, 2008	End of Mars solar conjunction
	December 26, 2008	Mars equinox (beginning of northern fall)
<i>2009</i>		
	January 14-16 2009	Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting (SWT) week of 12–16 January 2009 (dates and location to be announced) - Contact Agustin Chicarro (Agustin.Chicarro@esa.int) or Olivier Witasse (owitasse@rssd.esa.int)
	Winter/Spring 2009 East Coast	MEPAG (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group) Meeting #20
	February 2009	VEXAG (Venus Exploration Analysis Group) Meeting – Date and location to be announced – Contact Ellen Stofan, ellen@proxemy.com
	23-27 March 2009 Houston, Texas	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference 40th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC 2009) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2009/

	April 2-4, 2009 Mainz, Germany	Conference on Micro-Raman Spectroscopy and Luminescence Studies in the Earth and Planetary Sciences http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/spectroscopy2009/
	April 2009	Fourth MSL Landing Site workshop
	May 11-15, 2009 Noordwijk, THE NETHERLANDS	International Conference on Comparative Planetology: Venus-Earth-Mars at ESTEC Contact: Augustin Chicarro, Augustin.Chicarro@esa.int or Hakan Svedhem, mailto:Hakan.Svedhem@esa.int
	July 7-12, 2009 Melbourne, Australia	7th International Conference on Geomorphology Ancient Landscapes – Modern Perspectives Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre There will be dedicated sessions on Planetary Geomorphology and a field trip to examine analog landscapes in South Australia. http://www.geomorphology2009.com/ (Submitted by Mary Bourke, Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, Arizona)
	July 13–18, 2009 Nancy, FRANCE	72nd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Marc Chaussidon, Guy Libourel or Bernard Marty http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	20-23 September 2009 Alghero, Sardinia, Italy	International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) Meeting Session T7: Sedimentology and Stratigraphy in the inner and Outer Solar System Fieldtrip FT5: Tunisian desert: a perfect place to simulate the landing on Mars http://www.ias2009.com/
	October 2009	2009 Mars Launch Period Opens
	October 4–9, 2009 San Juan, Puerto Rico	41st Annual Meeting DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 18–21, 2009 Portland, Oregon	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 15–19, 2009 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2010</i>		
	March 2010 Houston, Texas	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	July 18–25, 2010 Bremen, GERMANY	38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly
	July 25 or August 1, 2010 Toronto, Ontario CANADA	73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Dr. G. Srinivasan http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2010	42nd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 31– November 3, 2010 Denver, Colorado	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/

	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2011</i>		
	July 2011 Pasadena, California	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology
	August 2011 Greenwich ENGLAND, UK	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2011 Nice, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, Minnesota	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, CA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012</i>		
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Trevor Ireland http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	The 34th International Geological Congress http://www.33igc.org/

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/ meetings:

Rosh Hashanah	9/30/2008	9/19/2009	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012
Yom Kippur	10/9/2008	9/28/2009	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Good Friday		4/10/2009	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/27/2008	11/26/2009	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/13/2008	10/12/2009	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.